THE U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA :: THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. 11 CALGARY, ALBERTA, OCTOBER 1st, 1932 No. 13

Canadian Wheat Grower Receives 20 Cents a Bushel Less than Australian—page 4

The Tragedy of a Wonderful Wheat Crop

Alberta Wheat Pool Section—page 19

Chester A. Ronning U.F.A. Candidate in Camrose—page 4

The Public Debt of the Province of Alberta

An Examination of the Facts in Answer to Some Liberal and Conservative Critics of the Administration.

By J. RUSSELL LOVE, M.L.A.

The following article was prepared by Mr. Love in answer to statements made by Liberal and Conservative opponents in appeals to electors in Camrose Provincial Constituency, where a by-election will be held on October 25th. It will be found of interest to all citizens of Alberta who wish to base their opinions in respect to Provincial issues upon facts.—Editor.

The sum and substance of both the Liberal and Conservative appeals to the electors to defeat the U.F.A. candidate, C. A. Ronning, in the Camrose By-election on October 25th, may be summarized as follows:

1. The Brownlee Government has increased the Public Debt enormously since 1921.

2. The Brownlee Government is guilty of reckless, extravagant and wasteful expenditure of public money.

3. The Brownlee Government has placed a burden of taxation on our people that is unbearable.

When critics become void of sound arguments they sometimes descend to abuse. Hence we hear about the spendthrift crew at Edmonton who throw away our money like drunken sailors. Kick 'em out! It's time for a change!

The above charge may be a sweeping condemnation in vague generalities, but it utterly fails to show in detail where the public debt should not have been increased, where in detail expenditures should not have been made and where in detail any of our present taxes should be abolished.

People are too serious in these days to take things for granted. They want the facts and here they are:

Our Public Debt

Our public debt is divided into three main parts, namely, the funded, unfunded and indirect debt. For obvious reasons, Government opponents never take more than the funded debt as our public debt in 1921 as you will see from the following analysis:

	Dec. 31, '21	June 30, '34
Net Funded Debt	$57,403,000	$64,000,000
Net Unfunded Debt	5,590,000	7,293,000
Indirect Debt	10,408,000	11,278,000
Total Public Debt	$62,997,000	$152,570,000
Increase since 1921		$ 89,610,000

Our total public debt has not been increased $93,000,000 since 1921. The increase has been only $89,610,000, of which $23,455,000 has been added since March 31st, 1931, largely accounted for by the unusual demands of the depression for expenditures on highways, unemployment relief, the Wheat Pool guarantee, advances of various kinds and shortages in ordinary revenue. Here is an analysis of the increases in debt since 1921:

	Total Debt
Roads, Bridges and Ferries	$20,987,000
Railways (Reduction)	4,797,000
Public Buildings	7,696,000
Telephones	5,306,000
University	589,000
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District	4,830,000
Wheat Pool	5,651,000
Debenture Issue (unused)	3,991,000
Unemployment Relief	4,484,000
Miscellaneous	11,088,000
Total	$89,610,000

Highway Debt

Over one-third of our total increase in debt is for highways. Will our opponents in the face of both urban and rural demands for more and better highways, say that we have added too much to our debt for highways? How can they when both Liberal and Conservative members in the Legislature in recent years have advocated a $25,000,000 highway construction program? As an asset offsetting this liability, we have an up-to-date highway system, of which 1,974 miles are gravelled compared to only 17 miles in 1921. Our investment in highways is one of our soundest assets.

Railway Debt

Owing to the outstanding success in the sale of our Provincial railways, our public debt has been reduced since 1921 by $4,797,000 and will be reduced by a further $10,580,000 when the final payments are received.

Debt for Public Buildings

Since 1921 we have built a new Administration Building, which cost over $1,000,000. We completed the Institute of Technology in Calgary, which cost approximately $1,000,000. We have added dormitories to two Schools of Agriculture costing $500,000. We have had to increase the accommodation at our Mental Hospitals costing close to $3,000,000. For eleven years not one word of criticism has been raised on the floor of the Legislature in connection with the increase in our public debt for public buildings and institutions. Opposition members have requested a sanatorium in the North Country for T.B. cases and increased accommodation in some of our institutions which today are crowded to capacity.

Telephone Debt

We have added $5,306,000 to our public debt since 1921 to provide service for 10,000 additional telephone users, necessitating an increased rural pole mileage of 5,000 miles. Liberal members in the North Country have repeatedly asked for extensions of our telephone service. Considering the fact that there was $20,000,000 invested in telephones in 1921, $5,306,000 is not an unreasonable amount to add to our debt during the past eleven years to provide for the annual demand for increased telephone service.

University Debt

$589,000 has been required during the past eleven years to provide for the necessary extensions and equipment required by the University. Less money has been spent on our Provincial University during the past eleven years than on any similar University in Canada.

Lethbridge Nor. Irrigation District Debt

This Irrigation project was organized on a gigantic scale by the former Liberal Government. It was under construction when the present Government took office. The present Government cannot be held responsible for the $4,830,000 added to our public debt to complete and carry on this project.

Wheat Pool Guarantee Debt

The addition of $5,651,000 to our public debt in connection with the Wheat Pool guarantee is not a charge on the ordinary taxpayer in any way. The Alberta Wheat Pool pays the annual interest on this part of our debt and will repay the entire principal within a twenty year period.

Debenture Issue

This amount of $3,991,000 that appears in our public debt as at June 30th, 1932, represents funds in the hands of the underwriters of the debenture issue of 1,000,000 pounds that was sold in England early in the summer. These funds are transferred to the Province from time to time to take care of the capital expenditures for the current year.

Unemployment Relief

The expenditure of $4,484,000 represents Alberta's share of the cost of unemployment relief which has been a tremendous burden on all the municipalities and Provinces throughout the entire Dominion. Of this amount $440,000 is recoverable from the Dominion Government. Will any of our opponents say that Alberta should not have taken its fair share of the financial responsibility for this tremendous problem?

Miscellaneous

The $11,088,000 charged to miscellaneous items include advances for working capital; school district loans, normal student loans; guarantees of various kinds and advances to meet income deficits.

This itemized statement accounts for the increases in our public debt since 1921. The Government has repeatedly challenged its critics to show by specific items the amounts that should not have been added to our public debt. Until they do this they have no right to condemn the government merely because the public debt is greater today than it was in 1921.

Our appeal to the electors is to investigate the facts. Our total Provincial debt has not been unduly increased in the light of the problems and conditions facing all governments during the past decade. No Province in Canada is in a sounder position today than Alberta. No wonder our opponents refuse to compare our financial record with other Provinces in Canada during the past eleven years.

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Principal Contents

	Page
Public Debt of the Province of Alberta	2
Editorial	3
News of the Organization	4
The Co-operative Committee's Bulletin	4
Profit Seeking or Co-operation?	5
Camrose U.F.A. Nominates Chester A. Ronning	6
C.C.F. Arouses Interest Throughout Canada	7
Canadian and Australian Wheat Prices to Growers	8
Alberta Wheat Pool Section	10
The Tragedy of a Wonderful Wheat Crop	10
Alberta Wheat Pool Broadcast	11
The Federal Government and the Pool	12
U.S. View of Conference Results	13
Estimate of Prairie Crops	14
Interests of the United Farm Women	16
Education in Hard Times	18
U.F.A. Junior Activities	19
Federation Program in Calgary	20
The Economics of Wonderland	22
News From Head Office Alberta Livestock Pool	24
"The People's Coal Mine"	25
New Plan for Voluntary Debt Adjustment	26
Notes by the Way	27

EDITORIAL

CAMROSE BY-ELECTION

To fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Hon. Vernor W. Smith, a by-election will be held in the Provincial Constituency of Camrose on October 20th.

The U.F.A. convention has been held and the U.F.A. candidate nominated. The result should not be in doubt, but it will depend upon the determination, effective organization and enthusiasm in behalf of their own cause, of the farm people throughout the constituency. Nothing should be left undone which can be done to ensure the largest possible vote, and a large, decisive majority for the U.F.A. standard-bearer.

The U.F.A. Government has given the Province honest and efficient service. As a result of its administration, the costs of Government in Alberta have shown a slower rate of increase per capita since 1922, according to the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, than those of any other Province. In the face of the world economic crisis of the past few years, the Government has steadily sought to safeguard the primary industry which is the basis of our economic life. In his address before the Calgary Board of Trade to which reference is made on page 26, Premier Brownlee very clearly indicated the determination of the Government to take any legislative action that might be necessary, failing voluntary action on the part of creditors, to halt unjust demands. As a result of strong representations made by him, the Calgary and Edmonton branches of the Alberta Law Society have agreed to the setting up of committees to undertake voluntary adjustment of indebtedness, and it is hoped that these will prove so effective that drastic legislative action may not be necessary.

Chester A. Ronning, a young man of proved capacity, who has for the past eighteen years been an active worker in the U.F.A. movement, has been nominated as U.F.A. candidate. Mr. Ronning is very well-known in the constituency. His views upon issues of the day were expressed in his speech to the convention. He fully realizes the necessity for fundamental social reconstruction and is convinced of the soundness of the advanced policies set forth in the program of the U.F.A. If elected he will prove, we are satisfied, a worthy and capable and devoted representative of the people of Camrose constituency, with whom the decision lies.

• • •

FARM INDEBTEDNESS

The necessity for a drastic writing down of farm indebtedness is imperative. Only a major operation can enable the great majority of farmers in Alberta to face the future with the hope of re-establishing themselves, even if the present general economic crisis in Canada should be surmounted, and there should be a temporary return to more "normal" times with less disastrously low prices. And of the possibility of such return, in spite of the ballyhoo of the professional optimists, there is at present no convincing evidence.

We think it would be safe to state that even if 50 per cent of the indebtedness of Alberta farmers were written off, the great majority of them could hope to liquidate the remainder only after many years of productive effort coupled with unusually good fortune. Unless and until there is a material advance in prices of their principal products, they can at best hope to do little. The greater part of their production is today carried on at a loss.

The new committees which are now being set up will be confronted from the beginning by this situation. They will be brought into close contact with the real problem of the farmers in these days of ruinously low prices. It will be necessary for creditors in large numbers of cases to be more than fair if the producers are to be given an opportunity to get on their feet again. The malady of agriculture is an unprecedented one, and demands unprecedented remedies.

NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Activities of Locals and District Associations and Information from Central Office—Items on Co-operation

The Co-operative Committee's Bulletin

B. C. FRUIT

There is a splendid crop of fine apples in British Columbia this year, and even though purchasing power is so limited, there is evidence that our farm people regard apples as a necessary element in the family diet. There has been a very encouraging development in this line.

With the exception of MacIntosh Reds the fall apples are now practically disposed of. It is time to take orders for winter varieties. Action should be taken so as to give plenty of time to Central Office.

There are approximately 650 boxes of apples to a car. Any number of varieties can be shipped in a car of boxed, also winter onions in sacks.

Cars of bulk apples contain fifteen tons and may have as many as six bins each containing a different variety. Onions may not be shipped with bulk apples. Bulk apples are now received on the prairies in very fine condition and the savings on freight and packing make possible a much greater consumption. Families who are unable to afford wrapped fancy grades will take several hundred pounds of the bulk shipments.

Central Office should be allowed some discretion as to the choice of varieties ordered as one or more of the particular varieties requested may not be available at the time of shipment.

COAL

The Co-operative Committee has renewed arrangements with mine operators in the principal mine fields of the Province. Business for the winter season promises already to be very satisfactory. To old, well-established Locals who have bought coal co-operatively over an extended period of years we have little to say. They know the ins and outs of the business. There is this, however, that wherever possible we should do business with our friends. If our Locals around certain mine fields would all buy from the same mine through Central Office we could make it worth while for that operator to lay his plans to serve the co-operating farmers and be independent of other connections. Another thing to be remembered is that egg and nut coal are screenings—not the main product. We cannot expect to get these cheaper screened grades unless we buy some lump coal.

We urge upon Local trustees and secretaries to take orders in good time and to use phone or wire if necessary in checking up on shipments.

BINDER TWINE

The twine season is practically over. Only the odd bale here and there will be sold from now on. It is essential that Locals and associations having bought twine on the consignment plan should gather in any surpluses still in the hands of Local trustees and return the same to the point at which the carload was received.

In the case of district co-operative associations there will be active supervision on the part of managers. They will give directions as to central points for storage. Detached Locals should take steps at the earliest possible date to ascertain from Central Office or from the agent of the company where surpluses should be shipped.

FLOUR

With wheat at such unprecedented low price levels it does seem that the farmer should at least have good flour. Any Local planning to buy a car lot should take action immediately to secure orders. There are four hundred and ten sacks in a car.

Contribute Wheat in Payment of Dues

Locals Take Advantage of Wheat Assignment Plan

Contributions of wheat in payment of dues to the Association are beginning to reach the U.F.A. Central Office.

The distinction of being the first to obtain credits for their members in accordance with the plan goes to Wayne Local; the first collection upon a wheat assignment form was made in respect to C. C. Nelson of that Local, on the basis of 7 bushels of No. 1 Northern in payment of dues to Central and the Local. A. J. Benson, also of Wayne, assigned 8 bushels of No. 2 Northern for a similar purpose.

For 1933 Dues

The question has been raised as to whether assignments for dues on the forms recently sent to all Local secretaries by Central can be made to cover 1933 as well as 1932 membership. It has been decided that the assignment can be accepted for this year only, as its use is an emergency measure adopted by the Executive for the balance of the present year. Any decision upon the question of 1933 dues properly lies with the Annual Convention to be held in January next, when policy for the year will be determined.

Further copies of booklets of assignment forms, providing one copy each for the member, the Local and Central Office, can be obtained on application.

COMING CONVENTIONS

Sturgeon: The annual convention of the Sturgeon U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association, and a U.F.A. Rally, will be held at Gibbons, on Thursday, November 3rd, commencing at 1:30 p.m. The business session will be held in the afternoon, and several speakers will address the evening meeting, including Premier Brownlee; Norman F. Priestley, Vice-president of the U.F.A.; Mrs. A. H. Warr, President U.F.W.A.; Donald MacLachlan, U.F.A. Director; and S. A. Carson, M.L.A. The president, Glen Storie, urges that each Local send its full quota of delegates, and states that the public are cordially invited.

Beaver River: Beaver River U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association will hold its annual convention at St. Paul on October 29th, commencing at 10 a.m. This will be a joint convention, states L. E. Magnant, secretary, as St. Paul members will be guests. The speakers will be Hon. O. L. McPherson and Louis Norseandeau, Wheat Pool field man, and visitors will be welcome.

Grouard: The convention of the Grouard U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association will be held in the Memorial Hall, High Prairie, on October 14th, commencing at 10 a.m. The secretary, James Law, asks that all Locals in the Constituency send delegates.

(Continued on page 20)

Profit Seeking or Co-operation?

The Wastefulness of Competitive Distribution and the Economy of the Co-operative Method

By NORMAN F. PRIESTLEY, Vice-president of the U.F.A.

"Co-operation is the greatest force in the world today. Co-operation has moved mountains and spanned rivers, built railroads across continents, and erected the greatest structures. Co-operation ended the Great War."

With what grandiose phrases do the agents of profit business cover up the real nature of their activities! The above quotation is taken from last month's issue of a trade journal circulated widely in Western Canada. The organization behind it has for its primary object the maintenance of control over the distribution of a vitally necessary commodity against all efforts of the consumer to eliminate waste in distribution, and thereby save money for himself.

Farmer Must Defend His Interests

To quarrel with business interests for seeking to be efficient would be folly, particularly if efficiency reflects itself in general community welfare. When business interests, however, behind the specious plea that "business today is paying the bulk of all taxes," seek to provide profits upon a frightfully wasteful system of distribution, including an enormous overhead, the farmer as primary producer must defend his interests.

The official organ of the same organization in a recent issue roundly attacks the method of "direct sales," incites its readers to give preference at all times to the firms named in a given list, and while carefully avoiding legal liability reports the receipt of letters asking for information about the practices of a certain other company whose name is given, a company known to be doing business "direct" with farmers.

We are not blaming these people for watching their interests and fighting for them. What we want to know is: *How long will farmers be before they are crossed to effective defence of their own interests?*

A battle is being waged all over the American continent, and not least fiercely here in Alberta, between struggling farmers' co-operatives and the highly equipped, powerful forces of capitalism. It is one front of the general economic conflict.

In the U.F.A. we have an organization which has many times proven its power. For a quarter of a century we have mobilized and directed the agricultural community in various efforts to control its own affairs and destiny. We have been thwarted many times but never beaten. We must not be prevented by the bargain seeking of some of our people and the indifference or lack of knowledge of others from winning our fight as consumers in an endeavor to bring down the cost of staple farm supplies. Is it not vital to the farm people that these costs be brought down to a level more on a parity with the price received for farm produce?

We have long known that the whole business of manufacture and distribution of manufactured articles is organized to take fullest advantage of the process of inflation and to resist steadily, and to the limit, the process of deflation. In other words, the goods the consumer buys rise in price at the point of sale, for instance over the local counter, almost immediately after any announcement of a rise in the price of the raw product or the costs of transportation and merchandizing. Merchants will tell you that they must reckon the cost of replacement and charge the buyer accordingly. On the other hand how slowly the price descends to the consumer. Two or three years after the farmer has received a knockout blow, having to take payment for his products at one half or one third of those values upon which he has based his business calculations and shaped his affairs, prices slowly decline in a few lines of merchandise, and some little adjustment is made in the costs of essential services.

Cannot Pay Charges of Inefficient System

We must make use of organization either to increase the price of farm products or reduce the cost of the goods and services necessary to carry on farming. It must be repeated, and repeated with emphasis, until the idea has been driven home to the great mass of farm men and women, that agriculture cannot continue in Western Canada to pay the charges of an inefficient system of marketing on the one hand and a terribly wasteful system of merchandizing on the other. We have made a big start with our marketing pools. They must be developed and made to include a greater volume of the production of the farms. We must also build a system of consumer co-operation. We must pool our purchasing power.

* * *

What Can Be Done—Some Instances

To deal exhaustively with the possibilities is out of the question. Here then are a few instances of what can be done.

In the last two weeks of September a number of our co-operative associations got busy and ordered cars of apples from B.C. through Central Office. The Co-operative Committee had not laid particular stress on fall apples, fearing somewhat that our members would be so occupied with harvesting that they would not take action till too late. We were therefore greatly pleased to hear of the fine success which attended these shipments. The car received by the Didsbury-Carstairs Association at Didsbury was cleaned up in less than nine hours, fifteen tons of Wealthies and MacIntosh Reds being taken off the car from the bin without the added cost of packing and storage. A second car was ordered and, to their great satisfaction was cleaned up in five hours. The saving made on these two bulk car shipments including the difference in freight charges, which are much lower for bulk than boxed fruit, exceeded eight hundred dollars. It is safe to say that under ordinary circumstances the farmers of that district would not have consumed thirty tons of fall apples. A merchant in a nearby town told the writer about the same time that he would not sell a half ton from his store before Christmas.

* * *

The Case of Coal

Consider the case of Locals and Co-operatives buying coal. Coal should be handled as few times as possible. It is real economy on the part of the community at large to take it direct from the freight car to the householder's cellar. Farmers have their own vehicles and can do this for themselves.

Our Locals do not all follow the same rule. Some sell to their members only and at the lowest possible figure. Others sell at a slight margin of profit to members and non-members, asking the latter slightly more money than the former, others adopt the approved plan of selling at competitive prices and return in patronage dividends to their members the savings effected. One of our Co-operative Associations last year handled over $19,000 worth of coal in terms of the current price to the consumer, a really worth-while attempt to reduce the cost of farming made possible by co-operation.

We have told before in these columns the story of the big savings effected in the co-operative buying of lubricating oils. The U.F.A. groups that bought tank cars of oil last spring saved over a thousand dollars to the community in each case. This does not take into account the significant fact that the price of oil has been brought down greatly by reason of the operations of our co-operative movement in that field. An interesting phase of that situation is that a certain well-known oil company has since canvassed some few farming communities in the southern parts of the Province and brought in tank cars of lubricating oil at a price much lower than they have ever before charged the farmer.

* * *

We are not setting out in this article all of the dreams we dream about the possibilities of this movement nor all of our more immediate plans. Cynics might scorn and our opposition might scheme to thwart our plans. Much of our hope for the future lies still in the field of legislation. If the people will only make up their mind to govern themselves and determine their own destiny they can.

Let us learn this, however, the world was not made in a day. Nothing that we do in the broad national or international field can be made effective to immediately change conditions for our farm people. We must do something for ourselves right where we live. By co-operating we can do it; and—shall I make bold to say it?—We will.

An important article on the Pembina Constituency Co-operative is printed on page 26.

Camrose U.F.A. Convention Nominates Chester A. Ronning as Candidate in By-election

Organization Throughout Constituency Plan Vigorous Campaign—Candidate Has Given Long and Able Service to U.F.A. Movement—Election Date October 26th

CAMROSE, Sept. 29.—The names of two men who have given highly valued service to the U.F.A. movement were brought before the convention of the Camrose U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association here today, when the delegates met to select a standard-bearer in the Provincial by-election to be held on October 26th. They were W. J. Brady of Edberg, who has been a most active worker in the Association for many years, and Chester A. Ronning, principal of the Camrose Lutheran College, who is also one of the most active supporters of the movement in the constituency, and has a long record of service. The choice fell to Mr. Ronning, behind whom all the strength of the membership in the various U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. Locals throughout the constituency will be mobilized. The by-election is to be held to fill the vacancy in the Alberta Legislature caused by the death of the late Minister of Railways and Telephones, Hon. V. W. Smith.

Very Satisfactory Attendance

Nineteen of the 29 Locals in the constituency were represented by 34 delegates, and there was, in addition, a substantial number of visitors, the attendance being considered very satisfactory in view of the fact that most of those who attended had had to leave their threshing operations in order to be present. Of the ten Locals unrepresented, several, stated the chairman, Gus. Roose, were fractions of Locals only. The convention was enthusiastic, and all present expressed their determination to put forth every effort to ensure the election of the U.F.A. candidate by the largest possible vote on election day.

Candidate Sets Forth Views

Mr. Ronning, whose active association with the U. F. A. dates back eighteen years, to the time when he was teaching in the Peace River country and became convinced of the soundness of the principles of the Association, declared in his speech before the convention that in his opinion the aims of the movement were well-defined in the Manifesto of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation issued on August 1st. The banks, he declared, must be nationalized, together with other public enterprises. "Private control of the medium of exchange" was largely responsible for the present depression in agriculture and industry. Mr. Ronning reviewed at length the record of the U.F.A. and the contribution which it has made to the economic life of the Province and the building up of a social consciousness among the people. With reference to the Camrose Normal school, he expressed the opinion that that institution had a vital place in the educational scheme.

Mr. Brady, who is secretary of Evergreen Municipality and acting secretary of the Camrose U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association, in a speech which was very well received by the convention, paid a high tribute to the work which the Association has carried on and briefly reviewed his record in the movement.

A CALL TO THE ELECTORS OF CAMROSE PROVINCIAL CONSTITUENCY

The U.F.A. organization appeals to its members and supporters in the Camrose Constituency to rally to the polls on October 26th and vote for C. A. Ronning, the U.F.A candidate

Mr. Ronning is a young man of unusual platform ability who, through years of active membership in the U.F.A., is well qualified to represent an agricultural constituency. He is thoroughly imbued with the principles of the social, economic and financial reforms advocated by organized farmers throughout the whole of Canada.

He not only has a knowledge of the flaws in our present economic system, but he has the courage and ability to fight for those reforms and principles for which our organization stands.

VOTE FOR RONNING ON OCTOBER 26th

Premier J. E. Brownlee, W. T. Lucas, M.P., representative of the Camrose Federal constituency, J. E. Brown of Castor, U.F.A. Director, and Mrs. Anna Kehoe of Castor, the only original member left on the Camrose U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Board, delivered addresses during the course of the day. High tribute was paid by several speakers, including Mr. Roose, to the administrative ability of the late Mr. Smith; and the record of the Alberta Government was plainly presented to the meeting, a most effective answer being given to critics of the administration by the various speakers. Mr. Roose stated that the greatest weakness of the party system was the method of raising campaign funds, which "ties the man to the political party and the party to the financial interests." In the U.F.A. the people themselves, through their own elected officers, retained full control of their funds. "Who pays the piper calls the tune" was true of all political movements. In the U.F.A. the people, through their complete control of their own organization, were able to call the tune.

C. A. RONNING

An article dealing with Alberta's finances, in which critics of the administration are answered, appears elsewhere in this issue and will be found of especial interest by Camrose electors.

The convention adopted a resolution asking the Provincial Government to endeavor to persuade the Federal Government to renew the wheat bonus. A resolution was also adopted to the effect that candidates should be pledged to do all in their power to retain the normal school for Camrose.

Committees of the Convention were as follows:

Order of Business Committee: Mrs. Ed. Kehoe; Alvin Luger, Bawlf; J. J. King, Camrose.

Credentials Committee: Pete Hanson, Bawlf; W. Smith, Ohaton; C. Rhinehart, Green Grove.

Resolutions Committee: Jonathan Toule, Willowdale; Mr. Rhysson, Bawlf; R. W. Campbell, New Norway.

The Candidate

Chester A. Ronning was born in 1894 in Fanzheng, Hopeh, China, where his parents were missionaries. The family moved to Canada in 1908 and settled on a farm in Bardo, 25 miles north of Camrose. In 1913 he went to the Peace River country over the Edson Trail, following his father who had moved over the old Athabasca ice trail via Lesser Slave Lake. He homesteaded in Valhalla where he helped organize a U.F.A. Local. He has attended the University of Alberta and the Camrose Normal School.

During the world war, Mr. Ronning joined the Canadian Engineers and was later transferred to the Royal Air Force. He taught for three years in Edmonton and was secretary of the local Teachers' Alliance. In 1922 he graduated from the College of Education of the University

of Minnesota. After spending a year studying in Peiping China, he taught for four years in the Fancheng Middle School. Since 1927, when disturbed conditions forced the closing of the school, he has been principal of the Camrose Lutheran College. He has taken an active part in the work of the Local U.F.A. and campaigned for the late Hon. V. W. Smith in the last general election.

C.C.F. Arouses Interest Throughout Canada

Many Successful Meetings—Activity in East—Enquiry from S. Africa

Widespread interest from coast to coast in Canada in the aims and purposes of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and a desire to extend and intensify the work of the organization, are revealed in correspondence received during the past few weeks at the provisional headquarters of the Federation in the U.F.A. offices, Calgary.

Interest in the Federation is not confined to Canada, however. From a firm of wholesale booksellers in London, England, has been received an inquiry for information and literature on the subject of the Federation, desired by the Central News Agency of Johannesburg, South Africa. The London publishers had applied to the Canadian High Commissioner in London for the address of the Federation.

Cross Section of Canadian Life

Correspondence received by Mr. Priestley from Canadians gives a representative cross-section of the life of the Dominion. Farmers, teachers, journalists, ministers, lawyers, business men, a judge, are among those who have written for information and expressed sympathy with the objects of the Federation. An unemployed workers' association in Eastern Canada, branches of the League for Social Reconstruction, of the Independent Labor Party, East and West, and constituency associations and many Locals of the U.F.A., are among the correspondents.

J. S. Woodsworth, M.P., and Angus McLanis, M.P., have been on tour in British Columbia in behalf of the Federation, while William Irvine, M.P., after meetings in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, has recently been touring with A. R. Mosher of the All-Canadian Congress of Labor, in Ontario, where splendid meetings have been held. As we go to press we learn that a meeting to be addressed by E. J. Garland, M.P., has been arranged in Regina and will have been held when this issue reaches our readers.

In Ontario

The campaign in Ontario promises to be a most active one during the fall and winter months. In fifty constituencies the United Farmers of Ontario are incorporated for political purposes and Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P., has arranged to see the officers of these bodies with a view to the organization of a series of meetings to consider affiliation.

"My meetings among the Ontario farmers are the largest and most interesting I have ever had anywhere in Canada," states Mr. Irvine in a recent letter. "Last night, at Wingham, a Conservative stronghold, hundreds of people were turned away. They crowded up the sides and on to the platform so that there was not room for another soul. The rest, of course, went home, not being able to get even inside the door. The night before at Coldwater was the same, and by what I hear from Lindsay, tomorrow night will be as good."

Eastern Conference Planned

Definite steps have been taken to call an Eastern Conference similar to the Western Conference held in Calgary on August 1st, and various organizations there have signified their desire to participate.

The action taken in Calgary, where local units of organizations which have provisionally entered the Federation have formed a committee to carry on educational work in association with the League for Social Reconstruction, is described elsewhere in this issue. The position of urban people in the cities, and especially in the towns of the Province, who are not associated either with the U.F.A. or Labor groups but who nevertheless favor the aims of the Federation and wish to participate in its activities, is continually arising, and will doubtless be dealt with in the near future. There are many people in the towns who feel themselves politically isolated, who will gladly welcome an opportunity to organize in units which may become effective in the Federation. The exact method by which this opportunity may be provided remains to be worked out.

Contributions to Funds

The first group contribution of funds to the Federation was sent in by Ida M. Hughes of Three Hills, Alberta, being the proceeds of a collection taken at a conference of the U.F.W.A. at Loyalty school, Hurley, on August 5th, when about eighty farm women were present. The first personal contribution was a cheque for $5 from a well-known professor in an Eastern university. The first official affiliation was completed with the payment of a fee of $25 by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees from its head office at Ottawa. The cheque was forwarded by A. R. Mosher, president of the Brotherhood, who is a member of the Provisional Council of the C.C.F.

Demands for the services of Mr. Woodsworth, president of the Federation, and other members of the Federation, are heavy from many parts of the Dominion.

Several thousand copies of a pamphlet containing two pages reprinted from the August 1st issue of *The U.F.A.*, and carrying a subscription blank on the back, have being issued.

Sharrow, Verna, Social Plains and Viewfield U.F.A. Locals have affiliated with the newly organized Forks U.F.A. District Co-operative Association. Mr. Birkusll is president, A. McDonald vice-president, and F. Spaapen, secretary.

DRAWING GRAIN TO HIGH RIVER POOL ELEVATOR FROM FARM OF H. B. MacLEOD

The farm of H. B. MacLeod, east of High River, is frequently inspected by visitors from abroad and from other parts of Canada passing through the district, as it is an outstanding example of a well-conducted farm. Mr. MacLeod, who is a member of the Executive of the U.F.A. has pooled all his wheat since he signed his first contract with the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1923. Last year he shipped three cars which graded No. 1 Hard, and the three cars shipped during the present season have also graded high. He farms more than a section and a half, and has a nice string of cattle.

Canadian Wheat Grower Receives 20 to 26 Cents per Bushel Less than Australian

Depreciation of Australian Currency Gives Australian Grower Large Advantage on World's Wheat Markets—Premium on Canadian Currency Heavy Handicap to our Producers.

By GEORGE G. COOTE, M.P.
U.F.C. Member for Macleod

When, during the early fall, the price of wheat to the grower in Western Canada was 34 cents a bushel, his Australian competitor was receiving from 2 shillings and 3 pence to 2 shillings and 6 pence per bushel—54 to 60 cents. In addition the Australian grower received from his Government a bonus of 9 cents a bushel.

What is the explanation of this wide disparity in the prices received by the growers in the two countries? What is its effect upon the relative position of the two countries as exporters of wheat to world markets? The answers to these questions are the subjects of Mr. Coote's article printed below.

CANADIAN farmers have repeatedly been told that they were better off than any other farmers in the world—poor consolation at best, even if it were true. But it is not true.

Number 1 Hard Wheat, the world's best, is bringing the Canadian farmer about 34 cents on the date when this article is written. The attitude of the general public is that it is just "too bad" for the farmer, but nothing can be done about it. However, something can be done about it, and the Canadian public should be informed of this fact.

A recent despatch from the Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Australia, referring to wheat prices in that Dominion says: "The average price to growers now ruling—depending on the distance from seaboard—varies from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d., exclusive of the bounty of 4½d. per bushel (in Australian currency)"—in other words, 54 to 60 cents and a bonus of nine cents per bushel. *On the day that the Australian wheat grower was getting 54 cents, the Canadian was getting 34 cents.* The Australian also received a bonus of nine cents a bushel on his 1931-32 crop.

Why This Wide Difference?

Can anything be done about it? Why is the Canadian not getting as much as the Australian when both sell mainly in the same market—Great Britain? Simply because, both selling largely for export, the British pound is worth in Canada only $3.85, while in Australia it is worth over $6.00.

Two years ago Australia abandoned the gold standard and allowed her currency to depreciate in gold standard countries, thus raising commodity prices within her own borders. The Treasurer of the Commonwealth declared: "The Gold Standard is a snare and a delusion." Canada has attempted to cling to the gold standard, and this policy has driven commodity prices steadily to lower levels.

Had Canada followed the same monetary policy as Australia, and were our currency on a par with Australia's or, in other words, if the British pound were worth as much here as in Australia, No. 1 Hard wheat would be worth 60 cents per bushel at country points in Alberta today, or about 50 cents, basis Fort William. And if, further, the Canadian farmer were receiving the same bonus as his Australian competitor (nine cents per bushel on any wheat now being marketed) the price today would be about 69c at country points, or 59c basis Fort William.

Australian state governments have also come to the assistance of their farmers. In 1931, legislation was passed by state governments in that country reducing the rate of interest on existing mortgages and agreements for sale by 22½ per cent of the stated rate.

Proof of the Pudding

There is an old saying: "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." A comparison of the conditions in Canada and Australia should show which is the best policy.

Australian wheat producers are now obtaining prices in terms of their domestic currency which are not so desperately unsatisfactory in relation to their costs of production and to their debts, while Canadians are receiving much less than production costs and drifting into bankruptcy.

Because of her exchange situation, Australia has been able to dispose of practically all her last crop, and at the end of July was carrying only about 17 million bushels for export, the bulk of which will easily be disposed of before her new crop comes on the market. Canada, on the other hand, finds it difficult to sell her wheat, as the currency of most importing countries is at a discount here. As a consequence of this discount (or in other words of the premium on Canadian currency) the Dominion entered this crop year with a carryover of 139 million bushels.

Some orthodox financiers and editors warn us at frequent intervals that if we allow our dollar to depreciate in foreign countries, the cost of living will rise as it did in Germany, with disastrous consequences. But I find that in Australia, on the day when wheat was quoted at from 54 to 60 cents, the standard quality flour was quoted at £7 per ton, wholesale, or $1.70 per hundred pounds. On approximately the same date, No. 1 wheat in Canada was 34 cents and flour $2.15.

John Maynard Keynes, M.A., the outstanding economist of England, said recently that in his opinion it could be argued that the economic and financial conditions of Australia had rounded the corner in the last six months. Does anybody in rural Alberta believe that we have rounded the corner?

What 60 Cent Wheat Would Mean

Wheat at 60 cents, basis Fort William, would start us around the corner. It would add approximately

30 million dollars to the income of the wheat producers of Alberta alone. This would mean thirty million dollars more to be spent by the farmers for taxes, interest, clothes, shoes, coal, etc. It would mean that thousands who are now facing bankruptcy would be able to meet at least their pressing liabilities, and save the homes that they have worked for years to secure. It would mean more business for every store keeper, more employment in both urban and rural communities. The farmers would probably take 20,000 more men off the labor market. It would mean a great reduction in expenditure for unemployment relief by municipalities and governments. It would, of course, add something to the expenditure of our Governments for exchange to meet their obligations in New York, but this would be more than offset by the increase in tax receipts and the saving in unemployment relief.

In the case of Alberta, it would increase Provincial expenditure by a little over one and a half millions but would that not be worth while if it would increase the value of our wheat crop by thirty millions, not to mention a corresponding increase in the price of cattle and hogs?

Statements have been broadcast all over Canada to the effect that the results obtained at the Ottawa Conference have provided a wonderful opening in the British market for the Canadian farmer, and he has been told that it is now up to him to take advantage of this opportunity and to secure a large share of this market. How can Canadians capture this market when the pound sterling is worth only $3.35 here, while at the same time it is worth anywhere from five to six dollars to their competitors in Denmark, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia?

The Canadian Government has said that Canadian manufacturers cannot meet the competition of British manufacturers so long as the British have the advantage of a depreciated pound; and our Government have placed a dumping duty against British goods entering Canada when the pound is worth less than $4.40 here. Following the same line of reasoning, how can the Canadian farmer compete with the Australian farmer, whether in the British, Canadian or any other market, when the Australian pound is depreciated 40 per cent in Canada?

Our Debts to the United States

We are told that Canada's interest payments on her bonded debt held in the United States are so large that we could not meet them if our dollar went to a heavy discount in New York. But Australia's bonded debt payable in London was larger than our bonded debt payable in the United States and yet Australia has not defaulted on any of her bonds. The British Government had hundreds of millions due to the United States and France this year and though British currency was at a heavy discount in the United States, all this debt was repaid, much of it before it was due.

It is rather significant, and highly amusing in view of the panicky fears sometimes expressed by eminent Canadian statesmen of the consequences which might ensue if the Canadian dollar were allowed to depreciate to the level of the pound sterling, that the British Government recently set aside a sum of $150,000,000 for the purpose, not of bringing the pound back to parity with the American dollar, but of preventing such a rise in the pound's exchange value taking place. It is clear that British statesmen do not view with alarm the depreciation of their currency in the United States; but rather consider it a distinct benefit to Great Britain.

Were our currency at par with Australia's, it would cost the Province of Alberta $1,600,000 more in Canadian funds to meet her New York obligations in gold than it does today, but it would add some $30,000,000 to the value of our wheat crop, on the basis of estimated sales of 130,000,000 out of a total estimated production of 172,000,000 bushels (some 42,000,000 bushels being deducted for seed and feed requirements.)

For the three Prairie Provinces the increased cost in Canadian funds of meeting obligations in New York in gold, would be approximately $4,000,000. But the value of the wheat crop would be increased by $75,000,000, the estimated sales being about 335,000,000 bushels.

How Handicap Can Be Removed

These, then, are the immense advantages enjoyed by our chief competitors in the world wheat market. To bring the Canadian dollar to the exchange level of the currencies of Argentina and Australia would remove our present handicap and place us on an equality with them. But even if a much more modest measure were adopted—the lowering of the exchange value of our dollar to parity with the pound sterling—very great advantages would still accrue to the producers of Canadian Wheat. If that were done, the value of our wheat, in terms of Canadian currency, would be increased by about 25 per cent, or in other words, by some $40,000,000. The expenditure of the Governments of the three Prairie Provinces for New York exchange would be increased by slightly over $2,000,000. It is obvious that if the income of the farmers of these Provinces were increased by $40,000,000, it would be very much easier for the Provincial Governments to raise the necessary revenue to meet their obligations in New York than it is today.

Canada's pressing problems today are the unemployment problem, the railway problem, and the debt problem. All of these problems would be made easier of solution by the abandonment of the attempt to maintain the exchange value of the Canadian dollar at a high level.

It is not suggested that the measures which have been proposed in the foregoing article would provide a solution of the problems of fundamental economic reconstruction. They would, however, afford relief of a most substantial character to our hard pressed primary industry, and would constitute the first step in the direction of release from the distressful situation in which so many hundreds of thousands of our citizens, on the farm and in the cities, now find themselves.

The Tragedy of a Wonderful Wheat Crop

The grain growers of Western Canada have produced a ray of sunshine which is filtering through the clouds of economic gloom.

They have put thousands of unemployed men to work, started the wheels of industry turning, sent a quickening thrill through the national pulse and encouraged Canada as a whole to take new heart.

Railway companies have put thousands of men to work and hundreds of trainloads of grain are scurrying to terminals.

Grain steamers with full cargoes and crews are plying the waters of the Great Lakes in a steady procession. Steamer freights are higher because lake freight companies are co-operating.

Ocean grain carriers are thronging Canadian ports and steady streams of grain rush from terminal spouts to gaping holds. Wheat is moving and every Canadian town close to the vast river of grain on its way to the ocean is struggling to be on the line of traffic. A Vancouver newspaper estimates every bushel of wheat going through that port is worth 10 cents to British Columbia, the money going to railway employees, lumber companies for lumber to line boats, employees of elevators, insurance firms, shipping firms, ship chandleries, etc.

Elevator companies are busy, oil companies have been encouraged by a larger demand, binder twine factories, farm machinery companies, are all seeing increased activity. Stores are doing a little better and so are factories. Banks are busier and so are lumber companies. Ten million people are happier and more hopeful, all because a quarter of a million prairie grain growers have with their own industry and skill and the help of Nature, produced a big crop of grain of splendid quality.

The Dominion Government estimates the total wheat production on the prairies this year at 446 million bushels. In addition to that prairie farmers have raised an estimated volume of 274,700,000 bushels of oats, 70,400,000 bushels of barley, 11,536,000 bushels of rye and 3,057,000 bushels of flax. From close to 40,000,000 acres seeded this spring on the prairies over 805 million bushels of grain has been grown.

Here in Alberta, if the Government estimate is fulfilled, wheat growers will harvest 172 million bushels of wheat, an all-time record, 105½ million bushels of oats, 20 million bushels of barley and 3½ million bushels of rye.

Nowhere else in the world has such a comparatively small group of farmers performed such prodigies of production.

Back on the farms Canada's No. 1 producer of wealth looks over his handiwork and calls it good and looks at the price and thinks bitter thoughts. Thirty cents a bushel is all he gets for the best wheat in the world, this man who carries Canada on his back, this modern Atlas who holds up the Dominion's economic sky!

Not much to be cheerful about! Not much to be encouraged to go ahead and produce. They tell him to be satisfied for he makes a living at least. Yes, but what a living for the families who play such an important part in the Dominion affairs!

One would think that the mass of the people would realize the vital part in the life of the nation taken by the grain growers and that every interest would be striving in every way to aid him. But the spirit of selfishness, inbred in our profit-seeking world, is the great preventative. Sentiment may favor the primary producers in a general way, but the practical working-out of our system of living makes no provision for groups who have no concentrated power of concerted effort. On the contrary it leads to confusion and chaos with "forgotten man" obliterated from the scene.

The task before the farm population of the Prairie Provinces of Canada is the development of a carefully planned program to develop their own interests; of persistent and continual education to give farm people the power coming from true knowledge; and the sure and steady development of co-operation in all their major activities.

Know where you are going and follow the path undeviatingly.

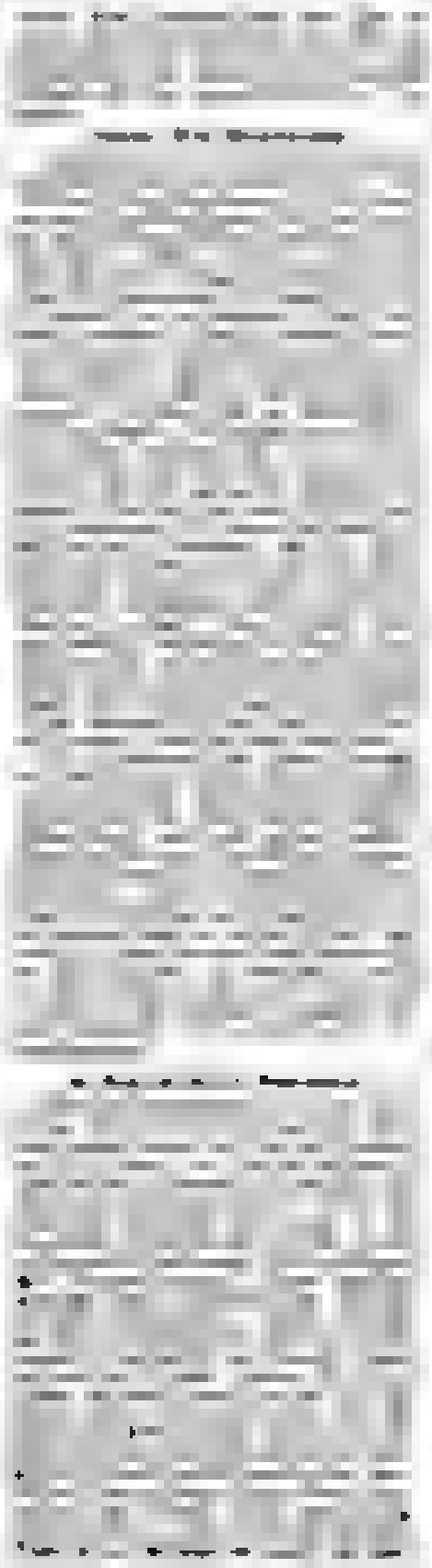
* * *

The obvious duty of the Dominion is to aid in every possible manner. Canadian agriculture has borne an exceedingly heavy burden. Can it bear it much longer without cracking?

Advice has gone far enough. It has been obviously ever done in a sickening way. Recrimination and abuse have been too frequently employed. It gets nowhere.

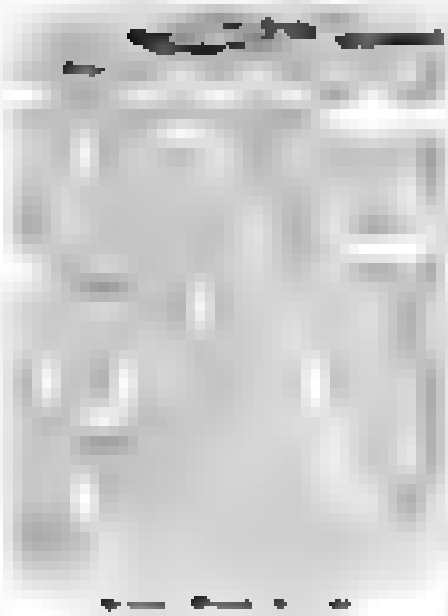
Effective, whole-souled measures to relieve the position of the grain growers are needed and without much delay. Otherwise a breaking up of the expensively constructed system of life in Canada east and west is seriously threatened.

Alberta Wheat Pool Broadcast



The Federal Government and the Poor

U. S. View of Conference Results



MANITOBA WHEAT POOL SECTION

General Notes

The average wheat yield for the Province of [illegible] for the month of March, 1931 was reported as [illegible] bushels.

The United States [illegible] wheat crop was [illegible] bushels produced in 1931.

Broomhall [illegible] wheat exports [illegible] million bushels.

The [illegible] Board [illegible] wheat exports [illegible] million bushels.

While [illegible] the [illegible] wheat [illegible] the [illegible] wheat [illegible] the [illegible] wheat

Interests of the United Farm Women

Agriculture in Hard Times

of the parent organization in the Junior Branch.

Mr. R. Grindale, M.L.A. for Olds, gave an informative account of the 1933 session of the Legislature. Wilfred Hoppins contributed a well thought out address on Rural work and Donald Cameron, M.L.A. and Ronald Fee, U.F.A. Director spoke briefly.

A resolution was taken up to be sent as a recommendation to the Grain Growers of the Commonwealth, endorsing the Stand taken by Miss Flora Shaw and the delegation asking for Mrs. Nellie McClung, Mrs. Shaw at the present time enjoyed by everyone present. There was a very pleasant afternoon tea served, with a social hour following the opening of the conference.

DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS

During the October Mrs. C. Hoag, U.F.W.A. Director for Peace River district, addressed meetings at Wanham, Fort Lodge, Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Whitelaw, Lake Saskatoon, Rycroft, Rycroft Star, Hythe, Cookstown, Clear Hills, Spirit River, Girouxville, Hill, Peace River and Keg River.

Activities of the U.F.W.A.

Notre Dame — Held a successful parade and a dance-entertainment.

Bellevue — Held a [illegible] at the home of Mrs. [illegible].

Willow Bank — Are [illegible] in the operation purchasing work [illegible].

Wiesna — Report of [illegible] and [illegible] at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Rock.

Mill Creek — Plan a tea making exhibition at [illegible] Junior Local at summer meeting.

Kinsella Hill — Held a successful dance [illegible] made a quilt [illegible] a family [illegible] at their home [illegible].

Bear Lake — [illegible] Local [illegible] attended almost one hundred [illegible] held successful [illegible] dance [illegible].

Waterhole — Raised $40 for serving refreshments at the Fall [illegible]. Report will go in to send a delegate to the Annual Convention.

Wallington — Held regular meetings during [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] are being run [illegible] Children were [illegible].

Hazel Hill — Have had an interesting [illegible] members [illegible] the Bashaw convention and the U.F.W.A. [illegible] held in June, August and in July and a course on interior decorating in August.

Tofield — Sent representatives to the U.F.W.A. Convention at Edmonton and to the F.U.W.A. meeting at Wetaskiwin. Have also sent a demand [illegible] by Miss Riley and held a public meeting with the U.F.A. Local.

Warner — Heard an interesting report of the U.F.W.A. conference by Mrs. Mather, a paper on young people's work by Mrs. Roland and a talk on [illegible] by Mrs. Palmer at a recent meeting.

EXTRA SPECIAL OFFER

THESE BEAUTIFUL PEARLS

FREE WITH ONLY TWO COUPONS from the New ROYAL CROWN SOAP POWDER

Here's an opportunity. A 24 inch string of high-quality indestructible pearls. ABSOLUTELY FREE.

All you need to do is buy two packages of the remarkable, all-purpose New Royal Crown Soap Powder. Then cut the coupon from each of these and mail them, with your name and address, neither placing nor the Pearls will be posted. [illegible] to you.

This special introductory offer is limited, so don't delay. Get two Packages of the New Royal Crown Soap Powder today. You will find it serve in every way for [illegible] purpose, washing dishes to laundering. Softens water. Contains no injurious chemicals.

Send to your New Royal Crown Soap Powder Coupons today to

THE ROYAL CROWN SOAPS LTD., WINNIPEG

Alberta Government Savings Certificates

SECURED BY THE ENTIRE RESOURCES OF THE PROVINCE

5% Certificates payable one, two and three years from date of issue. Interest payable at 5% per annum. Issued in denominations of $25, $50, $100 and larger amounts.

4% Certificates payable on demand bearing interest at 4% per annum. Issued for deposits of $5, $10, $25, $50 and upwards.

SAVINGS CERTIFICATE BRANCH

TREASURY DEPT. Edmonton, Alta.

HON. C. REID, Provincial Treasurer

It's Up to the Women

As well as the men to inform themselves on vital public questions. The U.F.A. Central Office has some low-priced books and pamphlets that are worth studying.

Among these are

CANADA'S TEAPOT DOME. A story of the Republican power scandal. A special rate from the publishers enables us to supply this at 5c

LAND OF THE SOVIETS. About a Saskatchewan farmer's trip to Russia 60c

SEND FOR COMPLETE LIST

The U.F.A Pattern Department

Seasonable Recipes

U. F. A. Junior Activities

Let Us Not Forget in Our Good

NOTICE

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

ADILMAN'S LTD.

ADILMAN'S LTD.

EMPRESS HOTEL

for BRUISES

MINARD'S KING OF PAIN LINIMENT

PATENTS

CALGARY HOTEL YORK

National Secretary of Commonwealth Federation Opens Season's Program in Calgary

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Carrying On Its Traditions

BANK OF MONTREAL

For the Asking

Mutual Life

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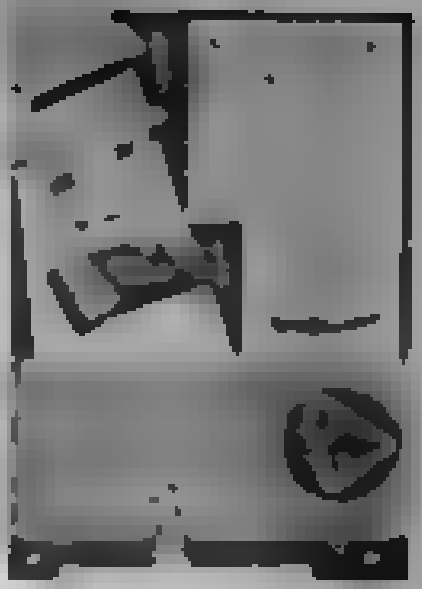

"There is a Tide in
the Affairs of Men—"

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA
HEAD OFFICE TORONTO

LOW FARE TICKETS BY
ALL CANADIAN PACIFIC
ROUTE
CHEERFULLY
CHRISTMAS
NEW YEAR'S

CANADIAN PACIFIC

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OFFICE of the ALBERTA LIVESTOCK POOL

The Most Effective Form of "Farmers Strike"

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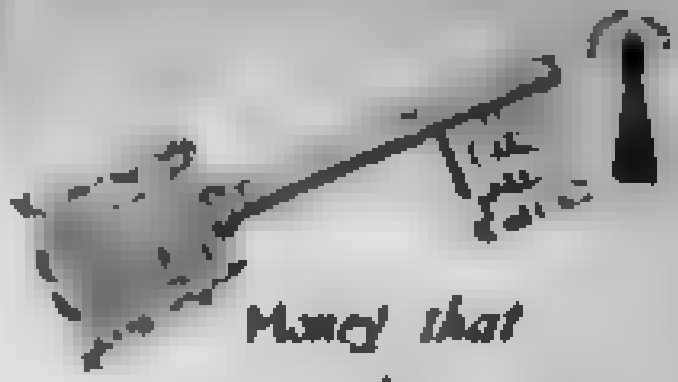

Money that makes money—

1855 1932

THE BANK OF TORONTO

Established 1855

The Co-operative Commonwealth—

New Plan Aims at Voluntary

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A Year of Consumer Effort by the Fruit Growers Confederation

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ning. We must keep on moving steadily forward, for to stop means failure and we must not fail.

We who have been entrusted by our members to look after their affairs well recognise our responsibility to them and we know we dare not break faith. On the other hand, we must have the loyalty, not only in spirit but in actual support of our members, in order for us to obtain maximum results for them. In this respect the apathy towards our co-operative movement in some of our Locals and among some members is deplorable.

We can never achieve to the fullest extent the things we have set out to do unless we co-ordinate our purchasing power to the extent that we become a real factor in the purchasing field and are recognized as such. No manufacturer or jobber is going to jeopardize or entirely lose his established channels of trade by linking himself with our Association unless he is assured that his interests are thereby increased. It is therefore up to us to increase our purchasing power tremendously. We must before we can expect to have the maximum bargaining powers. This we must eventually have in order to succeed.

If 50 Per Cent Were Organized

If 50 or 60 per cent of the purchasing power of the farmers of Alberta were directed through one channel, what a tremendous volume of business that would mean. The bargaining power that would represent can only be left to one's imagination. But it would be far more powerful than capital itself.

As intense retail competition has taken care of any excess profit that our retail merchants may have made once upon a time our eventual success can only lie in the buying field of co-ordinated purchasing, as in the selling end of the game we can see no great saving.

We have no fault to find with our retail merchants. They are just as much a victim of a system over which they have no control as the farmers are. But I have nothing but condemnation for the system of distribution under which they are working. It is a duplication and waste from the jobber and wholesaler down to the retailer, and the consumer pays the bill. We have duplication of wholesale houses, each and every one carrying separate overheads which would well take care of three times the business. We find this duplication most general in the retail trade in towns and villages where one store with a slight increase of staff could well take care of all the business now done by three or four. There are today hordes of travelling salesmen, each representing a different house and selling the same class of goods. I do not go so far as to say that they are unnecessary, but I take objection to the duplication. I have seen as many as five travelers selling the same class of goods representing different companies in one store in a day. Then why ask what is wrong with our present-day system of distribution? This is one instance only.

The solution is co-ordinated purchasing and selling, based on the principle of Co-operation. But the creative impulse for all co-operative activities must come from the people themselves and not from the top and must be consistent, not only in spirit, but in practice also. We can only go as far as the public goes with us. It is largely up to our members to make a success of our co-operative venture. Time will tell whether they are willing still to adhere to the old worn-out competitive capitalistic system of dog eat dog, or whether they have the courage of their convictions and will actively support our new co-operative enterprise.

Correspondence

INEQUITABLE SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION

Editor, *The U.F.A.*:

Having just returned from a short visit to the coast, I will endeavor herewith to set forth some of the existing conditions as I saw them.

Fruit farmers and chicken ranchers find themselves in just about as bad a condition as the Alberta farmers.

Fruit has rotted in unlimited quantities in nearly every part of British Columbia, owing to the limited demand, while thousands of Alberta homes could not buy this fruit, owing to their limited purchasing power.

Hundreds of British Columbia chicken ranchers have been forced out of business because they could not buy Alberta's cheap grain, owing to the discrepancy between the export and domestic freight rates.

I need not mention the prices Alberta housewives have paid for fruit this year. But I will say this, that in many cases they could have used twice as much fruit. That being the case, had we an equitable system of distribution, thousands of Alberta children could have had this coming winter, sufficient of this luscious fruit for their bodily needs, that has now gone to waste, and hundreds of British Columbia chicken ranchers would now be in business; which in turn would mean that the Vancouver and Victoria housewives, would not be paying forty cents per dozen for eggs, as they are today.

A Few Facts

A grower of small fruits near Victoria told my brother at Victoria the other day, that at least five tons of loganberries went to waste on his vines this year. How many Alberta housewives could have used this luscious fruit for school lunches this winter?

A lady at Nanaimo could not give her Bartlett pears away on the trees. So rather than have them waste, she hired them picked, so that she could give them away.

A grower at Chilliwack let his cherries dry on the trees, because it cost more to pick and pack them than he could get for them.

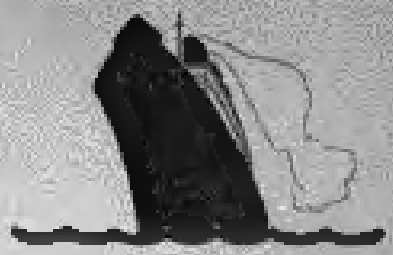
And so I could go on. But as this is only intended as a short letter, I will confine myself to the observations already mentioned, except, just in passing, I must mention a few dining car prices, as compared to wheat prices.

On The Diner

Transferring from the Calgary train to the Coast train at Calgary, I did not have time to go to a restaurant, so went in the diner. Having eaten in diners before, I ordered a light dinner. A pot of baked beans, toast and tea, seventy-five cents!

Next morning, hot cakes and coffee, sixty cents! Then I began to think. My dinner and breakfast had cost me four and a half bushels of wheat, and I realized that if I was to continue to pay my way in wheat, I should have had a carload hooked on behind the observation car.

Then I thought some more. Suppose



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I were to grind that 41 bushels of wheat into flour! At 49 lbs. of flour per bushel, I could have had 1[illegible] lbs. of flour. And with that I could have fed the whole dare train on hot cakes from Montreal to Vancouver.

Of course in dealing with dining car prices, I realize that railroads are up against an uncontrollable overhead; and that one cannot compare dining car prices with ordinary restaurant prices.

However, the following is only meant to convey to the reader what appears to me to be an unreasonable overcharge. And while the illustration is perhaps crude, I think you will get the drift of what I mean.

Killam, Alta. T. G. REEVES

NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Continued from page 4)

Director and Member at Prestville Rally

Hugh Allen, M.L.A., and I. V. Macklin, U.F.A. Director, were the speakers at a big meeting held at Prestville, on September 10th, J. Knezevich acting as chairman. Mr. MacKin described the formation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and declared that the fight for better conditions was becoming a fight of farmer, labor, business and professional men against "a handful of financiers that control the blood stream of our Dominion." Mr. Macklin dealt with the credit problem, and the need for a measure of inflation, and in conclusion stressed the need of active U.F.A. Locals to provide means for thorough study of these and other vital questions.

Mr. Allen spoke of Provincial matters, with particular reference to relief, which was a very pressing problem in the Grande Prairie constituency, where the population has increased in a short time from about 8,000 to about 20,000, mostly by farmers from the drought areas or by unemployed from cities coming with little or no capital to try to make homes for themselves and their families. With reference to debts, Mr. Allen thought a moratorium would be of no real benefit. Speaking of resolutions in favor of partial cancellation, he said, "Most debts will have to be cancelled in this way, but as to the wisdom of Provincial Government legislation to this effect, I am doubtful."

As a result of the meeting it was decided to form a U.F.A. Local.

Far-Flung Interests of British Co-operatives

A sample copy of a propaganda news sheet issued by the Co-operative Wholesale Society (England) has been received by *The U.F.A.* Short articles and numerous illustrations impress the reader with the variety and magnitude of the undertakings of the co-operative movement in the old land. For instance, one page includes pictures, with brief descriptions, of workers filling sacks of flour from a row of enormous spouts in a C.W.S. flour mill; a fleet of fishing smacks unloading the raw material for the co-operative canning factory; long rows of white-clad girls filling cans with cherries in another C.W.S. cannery; a miner setting off to work in one of the co-operative collieries; logs being brought in to be sawn up and made into furniture for co-operators' homes; and a group of workers on the C.W.S. tea plantations in India.

A Province-wide network has been arranged by the University of Alberta for their broadcasts this winter. The agricultural programs will be broadcast at 1:15 each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, over CKUA, CKLC and CFCN.

U.F.A. Local Items

Stettler U.F.A. Local at a recent meeting elected new officers for the balance of the year, as follows: president, W. C. V. Knoll; vice-president, J. Nolte; secretary, James Van Kleeck.

Thomas H. Rowe, secretary of Nakamun U.F.A. Local reports that there was a good crowd at the meeting held at W. C. Hickman's house on September 11th, when M. C. McKeen, M.L.A., paid his first visit to the neighborhood.

At the last regular meeting of the Ghost Pine U.F.A. Local, states a letter from J. B. McCuaig, a resolution was passed endorsing the action of the U.F.A. Executive in assisting to bring about the formation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

The Calgary U.F.A. Local, at a recent meeting, expressed approval of the action of the U.F.A. Executive in taking part in the provisional organization of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and in associating the U.F.A. with the Federation.

Acknowledging receipt of a cheque in payment of dividends on business done through the U.F.A. Co-operative during the past quarter, H. Breckenberger, secretary of Barons U.F.A. Local, writes: "This, I am sure, should be quite an incentive to the members to do better as time goes on, and they begin to realize what an effort Central is making to help the organization in these troublesome times. With thanks and appreciation for the good work you are doing, we remain."

Dealing with the question of timber in the Peace River district, a resolution passed by the High Prairie U.F.A. Local and a convention of associated boards of trade at Beaverlodge, has been forwarded to *The U.F.A.* by G. W. Randall, Local secretary. The resolution points out that as a result of bush fires and high winds millions of feet of timber are rotting on the ground, and suggests that the Provincial Government should make these fire-killed timber berths available to small mill owners, with the rate of stumpage reduced to a minimum, thus providing cheap lumber to settlers.

Information has recently come to hand that in the city of Toronto a Co-operative Milk Society is being organized along similar lines to that now operating in the city of Calgary. In Toronto recently steps were taken by a group of consumers to open on Danforth Avenue a co-operative store on the Rochdale plan. Thousands of such instances could be found.

The reporter came idly into the office. "Well," said the editor, "what did our eminent statesman have to say?"

"Nothing."

"Well, keep it down to a column."

A Song for Your Local

By "SANDY"

The following song, which may be used for community singing by any Local of the U.F.A. or U.F.W.A. or Juniors, substituting the name of the Local for "Fairvale," has been written by Alexander ("Sandy") Fraser of Carmangay.

We have lots of folks today, here at Fairvale;
Who make up the U.F.A., here at Fairvale.
Who have one great desire,
That's to raise their status higher
And they never, never tire, here at Fairvale.

We don't claim to know it all, here at Fairvale;
But we've answered duty's call, here at Fairvale.
We've our faults, just like the rest,
But just put us to the test,
And you'll find we give our best, here at Fairvale.

You can have a jolly time here at Fairvale;
For our women are just fine, here at Fairvale.
And you're making no mistake
When you eat the things they bake—
Coffee, sandwiches or cake, here at Fairvale.

We have bonnie lassies too, here at Fairvale;
And our boys are never blue, here at Fairvale.
You would go into a trance,
If you ever got a chance,
Just to swing them in a dance, here at Fairvale.

If you think you'd like to join, here at Fairvale;
We'd be pleased to take your coin, here at Fairvale.
So step right up and pay,
For you'll never rue the day
That you joined the U.F.A., here at Fairvale.

Come along and join the throng, here at Fairvale;
Help to boost your cause along, here at Fairvale.
For we know we must unite
If we want to get our right;
So step up and join tonight, here at Fairvale.

—"SANDY"

Mr. Fraser suggests that the song could be sung to the tune "Ask a P'liceman" which will be known to some of our readers.

NOBODY AROUND

Lawyer—Now, the first thing to do is to prove an alibi. I suppose there is somebody who saw you at 7 o'clock, the time when the crime was committed?

Client—No, thank goodness.

BRIGHT BOY!

The teacher was instructing the youngsters in natural history.

"Can any little boy or girl tell me what an oyster is?"

The hand of Jimmy Jones shot into the air.

"An oyster," announced Jimmy, "is a fish built like a nut."

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A. LANNAN & COMPANY, BARRISTERS, Solicitors, Notaries, 111-8th Ave. W., Calgary. Phone M8623. Specializing in Domestic Law, including probate, divorce and settlement of estates.

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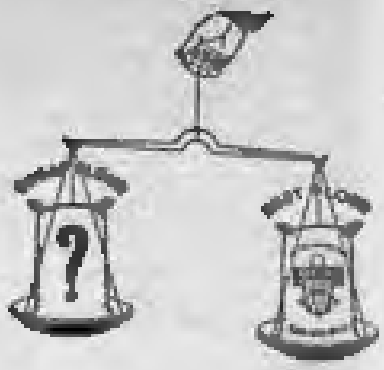

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MAKES MORE LOAVES ... BETTER BREAD ... BIGGER FOOD VALUE

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